(b) whether it is a fact that these centres are not opened in some districts of various states due to lack of adequate funds.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Government of India has been implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs). The major activity under the NCLP is running special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipends etc. So far, 100 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned to the 13 Child labour endemic states for coverage of 2.11 lakh children through 3992 special schools/ centres.

(b) to (d) No, Sir, NCLPs are basically sanctioned to the child labour endemic districts for which the concerned state government recommends and sends the proposal for consideration. In the Ninth Plan period, approval was given for sanctioning 100 NCLPs. These 100 NCLPs have since been sanctioned. Action has been initiated for continuation of the Scheme of NCLPs and extending the coverage to all child labour endemic districts in the country in the Tenth Plan period.

Steps to increase employment opportunities in Small Scale Sector

5336. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a downward trend in labour employment in small scale sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this downward trend is due to Government's policy; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to increase employment opportunities and make condition of labourers better in small scale sectors like beedi, weaving etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir. As per available information, employment generation in the small scale sector has actually shown an upward trend.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) A comprehensive policy package for Small-scale industries and Tiny sector was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30th August, 2000.

A study group on development of Small Scale enterprises was set up in the Planning commission and action initiated on the major recommendations.

Payment of statutory dues

5337. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute mills are defaulting heavily in payment of statutory dues like P.F., E.S.I. D. A. Gratuity, Bonus etc. to their workers;

(b) if so, whether government have effected any action to recover these dues from the jute Mill Owners who exploit the workers; and

(c) if so, the details of the recovery and the outstanding dues for last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to recover the outstanding statutory dues of the jute mill workers, the government has resorted to various recovery action as well as prosecution action prescribed under the law.

(c) During the last three years approximately Rs. 93 crore has been recovered and the outstanding statutory dues as on 31.03.2002 were approximately Rs. 297 crore.

Cutting of trees in Bhavishya Nidhi Enclave

5338. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 big trees were cut down and removed in Bhavishya Nidhi Enclave, New Delhi without any permission